

THE ALMA RECORD

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THE TRUE AMERICAN

Between fifty and sixty years ago a great man died, a martyr, stricken down by the hand of an assassin, just at the moment when he had succeeded in securing the emancipation of the black man, surcease of war, and the promise of a united country for all the years to come.

This week, old and young unite in celebrating the anniversary of the day which gave this great man to the world, through appropriate exercises, in gratitude for the service which he rendered to his country.

Abraham Lincoln never amassed a large fortune, never graduated from a great university with high honors, never became popular in high society, never added to the scientific discoveries of his generation. He made his own way in the world and educated himself with little help, with little money, with little encouragement. But he early learned to do whatever his hand found to do with all his might and to the very best of his ability and to develop whatever talents he might possess to their greatest extent, and that was the secret of his success. His life was a life of service to his neighbors, to his associates, to his country.

Although awkward and uncouth in appearance, he possessed a warm heart filled with sympathy for suffering of any form, anywhere. Though poor in this world's goods, he was rich in understanding of human nature, rich in native intelligence, in the ability to express himself well, rich in sense of humor that enabled him always to see the funny side of a situation, rich in high ideals which he always lived up to.

Why do we celebrate Lincoln's birthday this week? Why will we continue to celebrate it through all the years to come? Why will his glory remain untarnished as the years go by? Because, first of all, Lincoln was a great man, great in all the qualities which make life really worth the living. Secondly because Lincoln rendered a great service to the cause of humanity when he freed the black man, and to his country when he prevented disunion. But most of all, we celebrate this anniversary because Lincoln represents the ideal American whom we should all strive to imitate. He was patriotic in the true sense of the word patriotism. And we may also be patriotic in the same sense. He was kind and just and humane. And here again we may imitate him. He lived up to his own high ideals, to the high standard which he set for himself. There is no limit to the standard and quality of the ideals which we may all set for ourselves if we but do a little hard thinking and a greater amount of hard striving.

True we may not all be elected President of the United States and be placed in a position where we may emancipate a whole race of slaves, and save our country from disunion at the time of a terrible Civil war. But we can all do our part toward maintaining the high standard of Americanism which he set up for us; in emancipating ourselves from the slavery of bad habits, bad thoughts, and unfortunate tendencies, which form the worst sort of slavery, in discouraging all those enemies to our government who stalk about cloaking their own disloyalty in high sounding phrases which but serve to invest treason in a robe of sentimentality, and shroud corruption in a cloak of seeming superiority. We have these enemies to our government all around us everywhere. Their attacks are subtle, but none the less venomous.

The true American, and Lincoln is one of our best examples of the type, early learns to put country ahead of selfish gain, to distinguish between the false and the true, to stand for his country's best good and his country's honor not only some of the time, but all of the time. And we can all be true Americans.

IMPORTERS AND THE TARIFF

Some very enlightening information has recently been brought to the attention of the public.

At the special tariff convention recently held in Washington, under the auspices of the National Manufacturers' Association, a number of articles manufactured in Germany and Austria were exhibited showing the fearful disparity in production costs of those articles in their countries of origin and in the United States. Appended to each of the exhibits was a photostat copy of a sales slip issued by the department store selling the particular article showing the price at which it was sold to the American consumer.

A pair of scissors purchasable in the German market for 14 cents a pair was sold over the counter of this department store at \$3.00. A German knife with ornamental handle, a pair of scissors folding in, and a nail file, purchasable in the German market at 12 cents, was sold to the American purchaser over the counter at \$8.50. Two thermos bottles were placed side by side. The German bottle was billed through the U. S. Customs House at New York on a German invoice at 17 marks, which at the then rate of exchange was equal to 8½ cents American money. The duty on this type of bottle, its chief value being its metal case, was 20 per cent, (foreign valuation) or 1.7 cents. Adding freight and other expenses, the laid down cost for the bottle in America was 12.2 cents. These bottles were sold by a subsidiary company of importers, who operate a chain of stores in New York City, at 98 cents each. The American consumer paid a profit on these German bottles of about 800 per cent. A comparative American bottle manufactured by the American Thermos Bottle Company, with factories in Connecticut, New York and West Virginia, is put out at an average production cost of \$1.01 and retails for \$1.50. Under American valuation, with a duty rate of 60 per cent the landed cost of the German bottle would have still been below the American production cost.

A copy of a Budapest circular was shown in which the Hungarian house offered to print 10,000 circulars for the equivalent of \$36 American money. The best price that could be made for similar work by a New York printing house was \$293.50. "Wages here are lower than elsewhere, 15 times less than in London, 30 times less than in New York," declared the Budapest concern.

A glance at the import statistics of the U. S. Department of Commerce for the calendar year 1921 indicates that these foreign prices are not misstated.

The argument of the American manufacturers, farmers, workmen, and all who so strongly advocate the American valuation plan is that to assess duties on such foreign values as these amounts to practically free trade, and no consumer is getting the benefit of these low prices paid by the importers, who exact profits of from 200 to 1000 per cent when they sell over their counters.

Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

Author "Washington Close-Ups," "Banks and Financial Systems," etc., Contributor Political and Economic Articles to Leading Periodicals and a Writer of Recognized Authority on the National Government's Business Methods

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CHANCE TO FIND OUT

Just now a belated effort is under way to find out some of the facts about government business and government employment. The Bureau of the Budget has been organized and is in operation under the direction of Charles G. Dawes.

Both houses of congress are working on the problem of reclassification of government positions and salaries. The Veterans' bureau has been organized and has taken over the bureau of war risk insurance, that part of the public health service which had to do with veterans, and all of the work of the federal board for vocational education except that part which had to do with the treatment of persons injured in the industries.

There is also the inquiry being made by the joint committee on the reorganization of the administrative branch of the government of the two houses of congress, of which I have spoken. Walter F. Brown of Ohio is chairman of this committee, representing President Harding. The members of the committee are, on the part of the senate, Senators Smoot of Utah, Harrison of Mississippi and Wadsworth of New York. The members on the part of the house are Representatives Reavis of Nebraska, Temple of Pennsylvania and Moore of Virginia. The job of this joint committee is to "make a survey of the administrative services of the government for the purpose of securing all pertinent facts regarding their powers and duties, their distribution among the several executive departments, and the overlapping and duplication of authority."

In reporting the resolution from the judiciary committee to the house the members were told:

"It is a matter of common knowledge that millions of dollars are wasted by the government by the almost endless duplication of activities. There has been no fundamental change in the administrative activities since the organization was devised by Alexander Hamilton, and the result is that activities entirely out of harmony with the functions of departments have grown with the passing years until the government of the United States has become not only the biggest business in the world, but the world's worst managed business.

"The purpose of the resolution is to ascertain so far as possible the extent of the overlapping and duplication of activities, with the view that numerous commissions and bureaus may be eliminated and a great saving effected in the governmental expenditures. The committee feels that no more constructive legislation is possible under existing conditions than the legislation proposed by the resolution. With the present condition of the nation's finances and the burdens the people suffer because of excessive taxation, any legislative measure looking to real economy should command itself to the sympathetic attention of the house, and we feel that the passage of this resolution and the work of the committee will be which will be done in the future will result in the saving of millions annually.

It can be predicted with considerable assurance that nothing will come of this proposed voyage of discovery unless we, the shareholders in the enterprise, maintain an active, lively, sustained interest in it. One thing is always true of the house of representatives—it is representative. If we breathe warmly upon it, it glows. If we are indifferent it becomes cold.

This isn't the first time that a plan has been set in motion to find out something about how the government's business is conducted.

The earliest inquiry into the administrative methods of the executive departments was made by the Cockerell commission in 1887. Six years later, in 1893, a joint commission, of which Representative Dockery was chairman, was appointed to examine the status of the laws organizing the departments. President Roosevelt in 1905 named an interdepartmental committee, of which C. H. Kepp, assistant secretary of the treasury, was chairman, to consider department methods. President Taft in turn, in 1910, named a commission on economy and efficiency of which Frederick Cleveland was chairman.

Broadly and generally speaking, nothing came of these enterprises. You and I—commonly and vaguely known as the public—were not interested, and neither was congress. That ended it.

But just now, at this moment, we have the best chance we ever had to find out about our common business and how to improve it and lessen its cost to us. The burden of supporting it is heavier than ever before.

You will perhaps notice all through these articles that the information supplied me about the general facts of government employment and government business are in terms of estimates and approximations. This is one of the defects of government organization. It is so large and so formless, and its parts so unrelated, that exact and precise information about the whole is virtually unobtainable.

It is of the greatest urgency and need that the people shall know about their government, but they will find it difficult to learn until the government knows about itself.

Fastidious Bears.

Bears, especially those of the white species, are rather fastidious about their toilets. They are said to comb their hair with their curved claw, and lick themselves to make their hair shine.

Death and Desolation

By Paxton Hibben



Typical Child Sufferers in Armenian Famine Zone.

(Editor's Note:—Paxton Hibben, a trained investigator and writer, recently visited Armenia to report on conditions. The reader of this article should be warned in advance that Mr. Hibben's picture of conditions there is hideous in the extreme. Those who are not afraid of the truth will get it here in all its naked vigor. Those who would spare their own feelings should read no further.)

"When I stepped off the train at Alexandropol, Armenia," says Mr. Hibben, "I had to push my way through a crowd of refugees lining the platform of the station. There were among them hundreds of children quite naked, who clung to my clothes and begged for bread, not in the sing-song of the professional child-beggar of the streets of Eastern cities, but in desperate insistence, a sort of sobbing, half-mad chatter, with the words 'hunger' and 'bread' tumbling over one another, with no sense in it at all. The grown people were silent, staring ahead of them with vacant eyes.

Rags Covered Bodies.

"What they wore was not clothing but rags pieced together with bits of old sacking, disintegrating remnants of sheepskin and odds and ends like the filthy trove of garbage cans and back lots. As I walked through the station I could scarcely make my way for the women and children huddled in heaps on the floor, lying all piled together, listless and uncaring whether they were stepped on or not.

"Across from the station I could see more refugees camped on the ground. To get away from them, I jumped off the side of the platform onto what I took to be a piece of discarded sacking, next a torn and dirt-stained comforter, evidently covering something. As my foot struck the piece of sacking, a little cry came from it. I tried to get my foot away and my spur caught in the sacking and carried it away. Under the comforter was a naked child, just born, its eyes not yet open, and out from under the shadow of the covering there peered the mother, her eyes big with suffering and her skin hot with fever.

"Right at the corner of the station, in the hot sun, almost naked and pitifully emaciated, lay a boy, quite dead, his staring eyes still open. And people came and went about their business—no one paid the slightest attention to the pitiful body, lying there in the sun. In time the dead wagon would pass the station in its daily rounds, and he would be piled on it with the others and taken away. There was nothing else to be done about it.

Villages Just as Bad.

"I went out to see those 140 villages around Alexandropol from which the Turks were said to have driven the thousands of wretched relics of humanity that had flocked into the railway center in the hope of finding food or of getting away somewhere where food could be had.

"One of the peasants told me that when the Turks came to this district they began by taking everything away—cattle, grain, kitchen utensils, farming implements, everything. Then they began looting the houses for personal effects. Finally, one day they gathered together all the men of Akh-Boozak. Those of possible military age were taken off to be made soldiers in the Turkish army and the remaining, old men and boys, about 450 in number, they crowded into the two largest houses in the village and set them afire, with straw piled all over them to see that they burned. The women, my informant told me, they took all in one great batch to the very place where the men were standing and, lining them up along the edge of a gravel bank, first picked out about 500 of the prettier ones, whom they sent back to the Turkish army, and then shot or bayoneted the rest."

Mr. Hibben, acting as secretary for the Russian Commission of the Near East Relief, later covered more than 5,000 miles in European Russia, the region which he traversed along the Volga river. It is estimated that 3,000,000 men, women and children are doomed to die of starvation during the next six months.

The Michigan Committee of Near East Relief with headquarters at 1515 Kresge Bldg., Detroit, states that for \$5.00 a month or \$50.00 a year one of these starving children can be fed and for \$100.00 a year a child will be fed, clothed and sheltered.

Governor Groesbeck, honorary chairman for Near East Relief in Michigan, which is endeavoring to save 6,450 orphans during the present year, has highly endorsed the appeal and urges the people of the state to help save the remnant of that oldest Christian nation.

Interesting Calculation.

It is estimated that if a simple grain of electrons (a pea weighs a grain) could be isolated at the South pole, they would repel each other with a force of 112,000,000 tons.

The Open Forum

This Forum will accept communications up to 200 words in length on matters of community and county interest. Communications in regard to personal controversies, religious discussions and political disputes will not be accepted. All copy must be in not later than Tuesday and all communications must be signed.

FAIR VIEW OF THE MERCHANT

(By One Who Is Not a Merchant)

This is a communication from a citizen of high standing and long experience. What he has said is so true and so much to the point in these times that we pass it on to the readers of The Record for their careful consideration, in the hope that it will bring about a better understanding between seller and buyer, and be a means of promoting the best interests of this community.

Are Merchants dishonest? Some people seem to think so. I have not found it so. When the merchant has to pay a double price for his goods, he must of course double upon the sale price. There is no dishonesty in that. When prices were so high recently, merchants said, and probably said truly, that they made less than when prices were normal.

Have you ever considered that a merchant's reputation for honest and fair dealing is his most valuable asset? If he is dishonest the fact is sure to become known and his business will at once suffer. He knows that as well as anyone. It is always for his interest to do the fair thing. If there were no other motive for honesty that would be enough. When a man has hired a store at a big price, and filled it with goods and hired clerks, and perhaps borrowed money to start with, he knows that he must have and must keep the good will of the community and their confidence in his integrity, or he will not be able to sell his goods. He has taken a large risk, and he must deal fairly with his patrons or he will lose all.

The fact is that there is more dishonesty in front of the counter than behind it. There are plenty of people who will take advantage of a merchant if they can. But I have by mistake repeatedly paid more than I ought for an article and the merchant has handed back the proper change.

But did you ever think how much we owe to the merchant? He has invested his capital, and perhaps all that he could borrow, in goods which he may be able to sell at a profit and may not. He will be sure to have some losses through bad debts or through the spoiling of his goods on his hands, or through changes in fashion, or excessive cost of transportation, or by strikes, and he must always take that risk. That risk is so great that more than ninety per cent of all merchants fail in business sooner or later.

Besides, did you ever consider what an immense convenience it is to have the merchant at our very doors? When I need anything from the grocer, I have simply to step to the telephone, give my order and in a few hours the goods are deposited on my kitchen table. Suppose I had to go to Saginaw for every pound of sugar or sack of flour that I need. Suppose I had to go to Grand Rapids for every

Record Directory FOR READY REFERENCE

President and Congress
 President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, Salary \$15,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$100,000 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$250,000 in all. (Subject to change)
 Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$12,000. President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa.
 Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett of Mass., salary \$12,000. The 56 Senators and 435 Representatives of 67th congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage extra at 20 cents a mile each way, each session, measured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$3,500 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 211,817 population.
 Party Division in 67th Congress: House 301 Rep., 122 Dem., 1 Soc. Senate 69 Rep., 37 Dem.
 U. S. Senators—Chas. E. Townsend, Truman H. Newberry.
 Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Footeney.

The Cabinet
 Arranged in order of presidential succession:
 Sec'y State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y.; Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, John W. Weeks, Mass.; Atty-Gen., Harry M. Daugherty, Ohio; Postmaster-Gen., Will H. Hays, Ind.; Sec'y Navy, Edwin Denney, Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. Mex.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,000.

The Supreme Court
 Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$15,000. Associate Justices, salary, \$11,500 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif.; (Rep.); Oliver W. Holmes, Mass.; (Rep.); Wm. B. Day, Ohio; (Rep.); Willis VanDevanter, Wyo.; (Rep.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J.; (Rep.); James McReynolds, Tenn.; (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Va.; (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio; (Dem.)

Michigan Government
 Governor, Alex. J. Groesbeck, salary, \$5,000; Lieut. Gov., Thomas Read, salary, \$300.00; Secretary of State, Charles J. Doland, salary, \$2,500.00; State Treas., Frank E. Goodman, salary, \$2,500.00; Auditor Gen., Oranuel B. Fuller, salary \$2,500.00; Attorney Gen., Martin Wiley, salary \$2,000.00; Director of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary, \$4,000.00; State Highway Com., Frank J. Rogers, salary \$1,500.00; Senator of District, Aaron Amen, salary \$800.00; Representative of District, David G. Locke, salary, \$800.00; Supreme Court Judges, salary \$7,000.00; Joseph B. Moore, Joseph H. Steere, Howard Weist, Grant Fellows, John W. Stone, Geo. M. Clark, John E. Bird, Nelson Sizer.

County Officers
 Circuit Judge, Edward J. Molinet, salary \$3,000.00; Judge of Probate, James G. Kress, salary, \$2,500.00; Sheriff, A. T. Willett, salary, fees; Clerk, Bernice Case, salary, \$1,500; Treas., Sidney Evers, salary, \$1,200; Pros. Atty., Romaine Clark, salary, \$2,200; Register of Deeds, Chas. Heister, salary, fees; School Com., Howard Potter, salary, \$1,600; Circuit Court Com., Archie McCull, Wm. A. Bahkle, fees; Drain Com., Erva Laycock, salary \$1,500; Coroners, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

City Government
 Mayor, Chas. E. Murphy, salary, \$300.00; City Commissioners, John C. Chisholm, Floyd Glass, A. J. Archer, Philip Crocker, salary, \$200.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary \$500.00; City Clerk, Francis C. Hayward, salary \$200.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary, \$1,800.00; City Attorney, Wm. A. Bahkle, salary, \$1,200.00; Health Officers, Dr. John N. Day, salary, \$1,000.00; Chief of Police, James R. Campbell, salary \$1,750.00; Supervisors, 1st ward, Jesse E. Fuller, and ward, Nicholas E. Sead, 2nd ward, Albert P. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Helman, salary, \$5.00 per day on actual time.

hat or pair of shoes or yard of cloth or chair or rug or pound of meat that I need. Would not that be somewhat inconvenient, and somewhat expensive? The reason, and the only reason why I get them right at hand is that the merchant has brought them here and keeps them on hand so that whenever I want them I can have them. Of course he does not do this solely for my accommodation. He hopes to make a fair profit out of the business, but it is just as much a convenience to me as if he expected to make nothing.

I am not a merchant, nor have I ever been one. I never shall be one. But I can see that the merchant is really a benefactor to the community.

Cracks in Floor.

Make a paste of half a pound of flour, three quarts of water and a half-pound of alum; mix thoroughly and boil; soak newspapers in this paste until the mixture is about as thick as putty and force it into the cracks with case knife. It will harden like papier mache.

The Best News In This Paper

Listen, Housewives! Here's a cheery bit of news for you! You can now get all the Rub-No-More soap products at your grocer! Everyone who has tried R. N. M. White Naptha Soap, or any other Rub-No-More product, knows just what it does! But for some of you who have never tried it, we want to say just this: "R. N. M. White Naptha Soap makes your entire washing fresher, softer, whiter and cleaner than ordinary soap." And it costs no more.

Besides it does your washing in less time, lasts longer and does not waste away. Let Rub-No-More products do your washing and cleaning for you. Watch for our big sale—at all grocers.

(Advertisement)

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—in—
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Fox News Pathé Review

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SATURDAY
BUCK JONES
—in—
"BAR NOTHING"
Campbell comedy

SUNDAY (Only)
BETTY COMPTON
—in—
"THE LITTLE MINISTER"

—also—
BEN TURPIN
—in—
"LOVE'S OUTCAST"

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AND WEDNESDAY
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Bargain Matinee Wednesday
2:30—25c

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